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Department of State

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INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION INR-12

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 /B27 W

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R 190332Z OCT 81  
FM VA CHIVA PN  
TO . . . . .NDC  
USCINCSU QUARRY HTS PN//SCJ2 SCSA//  
FBIS LONDON UK  
INFO COMANDEFCOM ROOSEVELT ROADS PR  
CDR 4TH PSYOP GROUP FT BRAGG NC  
USAFSO/IN HOWARD AFB PN  
NAVSTA PANAMA CANAL RODMAN PN  
CDR 133D INF BOE FT CLAYTON PN  
STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHDC  
VOA WASHDC  
FEIS KEY WEST FL  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR ES  
SECSTATE WASH DC//FOR ARA/CEN/ES//  
NAVAL SECURITY GROUP ACTIVITY GALETA ISLAND PN  
FBPA

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EL SALVADOR: FMLN RECOVERS CHALATENANGO TOWNS AFTER ARMY RETREATS

PA190025

HAVANA PRELA IN SPANISH 0236 GMT 16 OCT 81

(TEXT) SAN JOSE, 15 OCT (PL) -- A RECENT GUERRILLA REPORT  
INDICATES THAT THE SALVADDRAN GUERRILLA FORCES HAVE RETAKEN THE  
CANTONS OF LA LAGUNA, EL JICARO, EL GALLINERO AND CHUPAMIEL, IN  
NORTHERN CHALATENANGO, WHERE THEY ROUTED THE SOLDIERS AND CONFISCATED  
MANY WEAPONS.

DISTRIBUTED IN SAN JOSE BY SALPRESS, THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE  
MOESTO RAMIREZ CENTRAL FRONT STAFF INDICATES THAT 5 DAYS AFTER THE  
WITHDRAWAL OF THE MILITARY FORCES WHICH LAUNCHED THE BIGGEST  
OPERATION UNDERTAKEN IN THAT REGION BY THE ARMY, THE REVOLUTIONARIES  
HAVE RECOVERED THEIR MAIN POSITIONS.

THE WAR BULLETIN REPORTS THAT THE BATTLES BETWEEN THE GUERRILLAS  
AND SOLDIERS STATIONED IN THESE TOWNS WERE INTENSE AND THAT FIVE  
G-3 RIFLES, 1 UZI SUBMACHINEGUN AND 1 M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHER WERE  
SEIZED.

IT ADDS THAT IN CHUPAMIEL, IN THE JURISDICTION OF ARCATAO, NEAR  
THE BORDER WITH HONDURAS, THE FMLN MEMBERS ROUTED THE GOVERNMENT'S  
TROOPS AND SEIZED A M-60 MACHINEGUN, 6 M-16 RIFLES, 32 CLIPS AND  
A SMALL AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION.

NEW DETAILS OF THE BLOWING UP OF THE ORO BRIDGE OVER THE LEMPA  
RIVER WERE ISSUED IN A COMMUNIQUE OF THE ANASTASIO AQUINO PARACENTRAL  
FRONT OF THE FMLN WHICH CARRIED OUT THE OPERATION.

THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY SALPRESS INDICATED  
THAT 300 METERS OF THE 800 METER LONG BRIDGE FELL OFF AND THAT THE  
GUERRILLAS SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKED THE TOWNS OF SAN MARCOS AND SAN  
NICOLAS LEMPA, ON EACH SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.

IT ADDS THAT THE FIGHTING LASTED 6 HOURS, FROM 2200 ON WEDNESDAY  
TO 0400 TODAY, THURSDAY.

IN SAN NICOLAS LEMPA, IT ADDED, THE SALVADDRAN GUERRILLAS BURNED  
THE RAILROAD STATION AND THE TELEPHONE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION (ANTEL).

THE BLOWING UP OF THE BRIDGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SABOTAGE ACTION  
THAT THE SALVADDRAN REVOLUTIONARY FORCES HAVE CARRIED OUT SINCE THEY  
BEGAN TO OPERATE MILITARILY IN 1978. IT OCCURRED WHEN THE  
GOVERNMENT JUNTA WAS CELEBRATING THE FALL OF GEN CARLOS HUBERTO  
ROMERO ON 15 OCTOBER 1979.

(ENDALL) 160236 MAP/AFRAM/CN 19/0319Z OCT

*Vilence*  
*POL 13-11*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *R. Valas* DATE *10/14/82*

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TS AUTH. REASON(S)

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